

Office of Personnel Management

§213.3202

this authority, the employee may qualify for conversion to competitive appointment under the provisions of Executive Order 12364, in accordance with the provisions of §315.708 of this chapter and requirements published in the Federal Personnel Manual.

(jj)–(kk) [Reserved]

(ll) Positions as needed of readers for blind employees, interpreters for deaf employees and personal assistants for handicapped employees, filled on a full time, part-time, or intermittent basis.

(5 U.S.C. 3301, 3307, 8337(h); 5 U.S.C. 3301, 3302; EO 12364, 47 FR 22931)

[47 FR 28902, July 2, 1982, as amended at 47 FR 43634, Oct. 1, 1982; 48 FR 2115, Jan. 18, 1983; 48 FR 11923, 11924, Mar. 22, 1983; 48 FR 24857, June 3, 1983; 50 FR 11145, Mar. 20, 1985; 52 FR 37762, Oct. 9, 1987; 54 FR 2985, Jan. 23, 1989; 57 FR 17847, Apr. 28, 1992; 59 FR 64841, Dec. 16, 1994; 60 FR 10006, Feb. 23, 1995; 60 FR 55174, Oct. 30, 1995; 60 FR 55653, Nov. 2, 1995; 62 FR 55725, Oct. 28, 1997]

§213.3199 Temporary organizations.

(a) Positions on the staffs of temporary boards and commissions which are established by law or Executive order for specified periods not to exceed 4 years to perform specific projects. A temporary board or commission originally established for less than 4 years and subsequently extended may continue to fill its staff positions under this authority as long as its total life, including extension(s), does not exceed 4 years. No board or commission may use this authority for more than 4 years to make appointments and position changes unless prior approval of the Office is obtained.

(b) Positions on the staffs of temporary organizations within continuing agencies when all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The temporary organization is established by an authority outside the agency, usually by law or Executive order;

(2) The temporary organization is established for an initial period of 4 years or less and, if subsequently extended, its total life including extension(s) will not exceed 4 years;

(3) The work to be performed by the temporary organization is outside the agency's continuing responsibilities; and

(4) The positions filled under this authority are those for which other staffing resources or authorities are not available within the agency.

An agency may use this authority to fill positions in organizations which do not meet all of the above conditions or to make appointments and position changes in a single organization during a period longer than 4 years only with prior approval of the Office.

[47 FR 28904, July 2, 1982, as amended at 62 FR 18505, Apr. 16, 1997]

SCHEDULE B

§213.3201 Positions other than those of a confidential or policy-determining character for which it is not practicable to hold a competitive examination.

(a) Upon specific authorization by OPM, agencies may make appointments under this section to positions which are not of a confidential or policy-determining character, and which are not in the Senior Executive Service, for which it is impracticable to hold open competition or to apply usual competitive examining procedures. Appointments under this authority are subject to the basic qualification standards established by the Office of Personnel Management for the occupation and grade level. Positions filled under this authority are excepted from the competitive service and constitute Schedule B. For each authorization under this section, OPM shall assign a number from 213.3202 through 213.3299 to be used by the appointing agency in recording appointments made under that authorization.

(b) [Reserved]

[46 FR 20147, Apr. 3, 1981, as amended at 47 FR 57655, Dec. 28, 1982; 53 FR 15353, Apr. 29, 1988]

§213.3202 Entire executive civil service.

(a) *Student Educational Employment Program—Student Temporary Employment Program.* (1) Students may be appointed to the Student Temporary Employment Program if they are pursuing any of the following educational programs:

(i) High school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED);

- (ii) Vocational/Technical certificate;
- (iii) Associate degree;
- (iv) Baccalaureate degree;
- (v) Graduate degree; or
- (vi) Professional degree.

(2) *Definition of student.* A student is an individual who has been accepted for enrollment, or who is enrolled, as a degree (diploma, certificate, etc.) seeking student in an accredited high school, technical or vocational school, 2-year or 4-year college or university, graduate or professional school. If the student is enrolled, the student must be taking at least a half-time academic/vocational/ or technical course load. The definition of *half-time* is the definition provided by the school in which the student is enrolled. Students need not be in actual physical attendance, so long as all the other requirements are met. An individual who needs to complete less than the equivalent of half an academic/vocational or technical courseload in the class enrollment period immediately prior to graduating is still considered a student for purposes of this program.

(3) *Schedules.* Students may work full-time or part-time schedules at any time during the year. There are no limitations on the number of hours a student can work per week, but the student's work schedule should not interfere with the student's academic schedule.

(4) *Breaks in program.* A *break in program* is defined as a period of time when a program participant is working but is unable to go to school, or neither attending classes nor working at the agency. Agencies may use their discretion in either approving or denying a break in program.

(5) *Employment of minors.* Participation in this program must be in conformance with Federal, State, or local laws and standards governing the employment of minors.

(6) *Citizenship.* Agencies may appoint non-citizens provided that:

(i) The student is lawfully admitted to the United States as a permanent resident or otherwise authorized to be employed; and

(ii) The agency is authorized to pay aliens under the annual appropriations act and any agency specific enabling and appropriation statutes.

(7) *Employment of relatives.* In accordance with part 310 of this chapter, a student may work in the same agency with a relative when there is no direct reporting relationship and the relative is not in a position to influence or control the student's appointment, employment, promotion or advancement within the agency.

(8) *Financial need.* There is no requirement for students to meet any specific economic/income criteria to be eligible. However, agencies have the option to establish and use financial need as a criteria to select students, if they wish. OPM does not develop or distribute annual economic guidelines for use in determining financial need. An agency wishing to use the Department of Health and Human Services' poverty guidelines may call the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

(9) *Training expenses.* Observing the prohibitions in 5 U.S.C. 4107, agencies may use their training authority in 5 U.S.C. chapter 41 and 5 CFR part 410 to pay all or part of training expenses directly related to students' official duties.

(10) *Appointments.* (i) Students are appointed to positions not to exceed 1 year. Appointments under this authority may be extended in one-year increments as long as the individual meets the definition of a student. Agencies may establish minimum academic requirements and on the job performance requirements for continuation in the program. Students under this appointment authority are excepted from the limitations under § 213.104.

(ii) The nature of the duties does not have to be related to the student's academic/career goals.

(iii) Students are not eligible for non-competitive conversion to term, career, or career-conditional appointments. They may be converted to the Student Career Experience Program (refer to paragraph (a)(15) of this section).

(11) *Classification.* Classification of students is based on the occupational series for which they are hired. Grade

level is to be set according to the criteria in the appropriate General Schedule (GS) or wage grade (WG) classification standard.

(12) *Qualifications.* Students may be evaluated either by agency-developed standards or by the OPM qualification requirements for the position to which appointed. Students are eligible for promotions. Promotions should be documented as a conversion to another excepted appointment, citing the same authority used for the original appointment and maintaining the original not-to-exceed (NTE) date.

(13) *Benefits.* (i) Students under this program are eligible for annual and sick leave and are generally ineligible for retirement coverage. Refer to §831.201 and §842.105 of this chapter for specific information.

(ii) For rules on health and life insurance coverage refer to §870.202, §890.102, and §890.502 of this chapter.

(14) *Reductions-in-Force (RIF).* Students are covered by §351.502 of this chapter for purposes of RIF. Students, provided they have completed at least 1 year of current continuous service, are in excepted service Tenure Group III.

(15) *Conversion to Student Career Experience Program.* (i) Students may be noncompetitively converted to the Student Career Experience Program whenever they meet the requirements of that program and the agency has an appropriate position available.

(ii) Work experience related to the student's academic program and career goals, gained while under the Student Temporary Employment Program, may be credited towards the 640 hour work experience necessary for noncompetitive conversion to a term, career, or career-conditional appointment.

(iii) Conversions are not subject to requirements of subparts C and D of part 302 of this chapter.

(b) *Student Educational Employment Program—Student Career Experience Program.* (1)(i) Students may be appointed to the Student Career Experience Program if they are pursuing any of the following educational programs:

- (A) High school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED);
- (B) Vocational/Technical certificate;
- (C) Associate degree;
- (D) Baccalaureate degree;

(E) Graduate degree; or

(F) Professional degree.

(ii) Student participants in the Harry S. Truman Foundation Scholarship Program under the provision of Public Law 93-842 are eligible for appointments under the Student Career Experience Program.

(2) *Definition of student:* A student is an individual who has been accepted for enrollment, or who is enrolled, as a degree (diploma, certificate, etc.) seeking student in an accredited high school, technical or vocational school, 2-year or 4-year college or university, graduate or professional school. If the student is enrolled, the student must be taking at least a half-time academic/vocational/ or technical course load. The definition of *half-time* is the definition provided by the school in which the student is enrolled. Students need not be in actual physical attendance, so long as all the other requirements are met. An individual who needs to complete less than the equivalent of half an academic/vocational or technical courseload in the class enrollment period immediately prior to graduating is still considered a student for purposes of this program.

(3) *Schedules.* Students may work full-time or part-time schedules at any time during the year. There are no limitations on the number of hours a student can work per week, but the student's work schedule should not interfere with the student's academic schedule.

(4) *Breaks in program.* A *break in program* is defined as a period of time when a program participant is working but is unable to go to school, or neither attending classes nor working at the agency. Agencies may use their discretion in either approving or denying a break in program.

(5) *Employment of minors.* Participation in this program must be in conformance with Federal, State, or local laws and standards governing the employment of minors.

(6) *Citizenship.* (i) Agencies may appoint non-citizens provided that:

(A) The student is lawfully admitted to the United States as a permanent resident or otherwise authorized to be employed; and

(B) The agency is authorized to pay aliens under the annual appropriations act ban and any agency specific enabling and appropriation statutes.

(ii) All students must be United States citizens at the time they are noncompetitively converted to a term, career, or career-conditional appointment.

(7) *Employment of relatives.* In accordance with part 310 of this chapter, a student may work in the same agency with a relative when there is no direct reporting relationship and the relative is not in a position to influence or control the student's appointment, employment, promotion or advancement within the agency.

(8) *Financial need.* There is no requirement for students to meet any specific economic/income criteria to be eligible. However, agencies have the option to establish and use financial need as a criteria to select students, if they wish. OPM does not develop or distribute annual economic guidelines for use in determining financial need. An agency wishing to use the Department of Health and Human Services' poverty guidelines may call the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

(9) *Training expenses.* Observing the prohibitions in 5 U.S.C. 4107, agencies may use their training authority in 5 U.S.C. chapter 41 and 5 CFR part 410 to pay all or part of training expenses directly related to students' official duties.

(10) *Appointments.* (i) Appointments are subject to all the requirements and conditions governing term, career, or career-conditional employment, including investigation to establish an appointee's qualifications and suitability.

(ii) Appointments of participants who have met all the requirements of the program may be noncompetitively converted to term, career, or career-conditional appointments at any time within 120 days after satisfactory completion of the requirements for his/her diploma, certificate, or degree.

(11) *Program requirements for non-competitive conversion.* (i) *Students,* who are U.S. citizens, may be noncompetitively converted from the Student Career

Experience Program to a term, career or career-conditional appointment under Executive Order 12015 (as amended by Executive Order 13024) when students have:

(A) Completed within the preceding 120 days, at an accredited school, course requirements conferring a diploma, certificate, or degree;

(B) Completed at least 640 hours of career-related work (agencies have the option of increasing this requirement for some or all of its occupational fields), before completion of, or concurrently with, the course requirements;

(C) Been recommended by the employing agency in which the career-related work was performed; and

(D) Met the qualification standards for the targeted position to which the student will be appointed.

(ii) Conversions must be to an occupation related to the student's academic training and career related work experience.

(iii) The noncompetitive conversion may be to a position within the same agency or any other agency within the Federal Government.

(iv) Agencies who noncompetitively convert Student Career Experience Program participants to term appointments may also noncompetitively convert them to career or career-conditional appointments before the term appointments expire.

(12) *Agreement by all parties.* (i) The Student Career Experience Program is a formally structured program and requires a written agreement by all parties (agency, school, student) as to the:

(A) Nature of work assignments;

(B) Schedule of work assignments and class attendance;

(C) Evaluation procedures; and

(D) Requirements for continuation and successful completion of the program.

(ii) The work experience with the agency must be related to his/her academic/career goals.

(13) *Schedule.* Agencies, participating educational institutions, and students should agree on a formally-arranged schedule of school and work to ensure that:

(i) Work responsibilities do not interfere with academic performance;

(ii) Completion of the educational program (awarding of diploma/certificate/degree) and the Student Career Experience Program are accomplished in a reasonable and appropriate time-frame;

(iii) The agency is informed and prepared for the student's periods of employment; and

(iv) Requirements for non-competitive conversion to term, career, or career-conditional employment are understood by all parties.

(14) *Classification.* Students whose positions are covered by the General Schedule will be classified as student trainees, to the -99 series of the appropriate occupational group. Students whose positions are covered by the Federal Wage System will be classified as student trainees, to the -01 series of the appropriate occupational group.

(15) *Qualifications.* Students may be evaluated by either agency-developed standards or by the OPM qualifications requirements for the target position. Any OPM test requirements are waived. Students are eligible for promotion.

(16) *Benefits.* (i) Students appointed under this program earn annual and sick leave and with no prior service or with less than 5 years of prior civilian service, are generally covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) (see part 842 of this chapter).

(ii) For life insurance and health benefits coverage refer to §870.202 and §890.102 of this chapter.

(17) *Tuition assistance.* Observing the prohibitions in 5 U.S.C. 4107, agencies may use their training authority in 5 U.S.C. chapter 41 and 5 CFR part 410 to pay all or part of training expenses directly related to students' official duties.

(18) *Travel and transportation.* Agencies may pay for other expenses directly related to training, such as travel and transportation between duty station and school, for participants.

(19) *Reduction-in-force (RIF).* (i) Students are in excepted service Tenure Group II for purposes of §351.502. They are accorded the same retention rights as excepted service employees.

(ii) They may qualify for severance pay if involuntarily separated under part 550, subpart G of this chapter.

(c)-(i) [Reserved]

(j) Special executive development positions established in connection with Senior Executive Service candidate development programs which have been approved by OPM. A Federal agency may make new appointments under this authority for any period of employment not exceeding 3 years for one individual.

(k) Positions at grades GS-15 and below when filled by individuals who: (1) are placed at a severe disadvantage in obtaining employment because of a psychiatric disability evidenced by hospitalization or outpatient treatment and have had a significant period of substantially disrupted employment because of the disability; and (2) are certified to a specific position by a State vocational rehabilitation counselor or a Veterans Administration counseling psychologist (or psychiatrist) who indicates that they meet the severe disadvantage criteria stated above, that they are capable of functioning in the positions to which they will be appointed, and that any residual disability is not job related. Employment of any individual under this authority may not exceed 2 years following each significant period of mental illness.

(l) [Reserved]

(m) Positions when filed under any of the following conditions:

(1) Appointment at grades GS-15 and above, or equivalent, in the same or a different agency without a break in service from a career appointment in the Senior Executive Service (SES) of an individual who:

(i) Has completed the SES probationary period;

(ii) Has been removed from the SES because of less than fully successful executive performance, failure to be recertified, or a reduction in force; and

(iii) Is entitled to be placed in another civil service position under 5 U.S.C. 3594(b).

(2) Appointment in a different agency without a break in service of an individual originally appointed under paragraph (m)(1).

(3) Reassignment, promotion, or demotion within the same agency of an individual appointed under this authority.

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(n) Positions when filled by preference eligibles or veterans who have been separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions after 3 years or more of continuous active service and who, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 3304(f) (Pub. L. 105-339), applied for these positions under merit promotion procedures when applications were being accepted by the agency from individuals outside its own workforce. These veterans may be promoted, demoted, or reassigned, as appropriate, to other positions within the agency but would remain employed under this excepted authority as long as there is no break in service.

[47 FR 28904, July 2, 1982, as amended at 47 FR 38258, Aug. 31, 1982; 52 FR 25194, July 6, 1987; 52 FR 43722, Nov. 16, 1987; 54 FR 15371, Apr. 18, 1989; 54 FR 18875, May 3, 1989; 55 FR 26419, June 28, 1990; 56 FR 170, Jan. 3, 1991; 59 FR 64841, Dec. 16, 1994; 62 FR 63628, Dec. 2, 1997; 63 FR 57045, Oct. 26, 1998; 63 FR 66705, Dec. 3, 1998]

SCHEDULE C

§ 213.3301 Positions of a confidential or policy-determining nature.

(a) Upon specific authorization by OPM, agencies may make appointments under this section to positions which are policy-determining or which involve a close and confidential working relationship with the head of an agency or other key appointed officials. Positions filled under this authority are excepted from the competitive service and constitute Schedule C. Each position will be assigned a number from § 213.3302 to § 213.3999, or other appropriate number, to be used by the agency in recording appointments made under that authorization.

(b) When requesting Schedule C exception, agencies must submit to OPM a statement signed by the agency head certifying that the position was not created solely or primarily for the purpose of detailing the incumbent to the White House.

(c) The exception from the competitive service for each position listed in Schedule C by OPM is revoked immediately upon the position becoming vacant. An agency shall notify OPM

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within 3 working days after a Schedule C position has been vacated.

[60 FR 35120, July 6, 1995]

§ 213.3302 Temporary transitional Schedule C positions.

(a) An agency may establish temporary transitional Schedule C positions necessary to assist a department or agency head during the 1-year period immediately following a change in presidential administration, when a new department or agency head has entered on duty, or when a new department or agency is created. These positions may be established only to meet legitimate needs of the agency in carrying out its mission during the period of transition associated with such changeovers. They must be of a confidential or policy-determining character and are subject to instructions issued by OPM.

(b) The number of temporary transitional Schedule C positions established by an agency cannot exceed either 50 percent of the highest number of permanent Schedule C positions filled by that agency at any time over the previous 5 years, or three positions, whichever is higher. In the event a new department or agency is created, the number of temporary transitional positions should be reasonable in light of the size and program responsibility of that department or agency. OPM may approve an increase in an agency's quota to meet a critical need or in unusual circumstances.

(c) Individual appointments under this authority may be made for 120 days, with one extension of an additional 120 days. They may be deemed provisional appointments for purposes of the regulations set out in parts 351, 831, 842, 870, and 890 of this chapter if they meet the criteria set out in §§ 316.401 and 316.403 of this chapter.

(d) An agency shall notify OPM within 5 working days after a temporary transitional Schedule C position has been encumbered and within 3 working days when it has been vacated. The agency must also submit to OPM a statement signed by the agency head certifying that the position was not